

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT  
Gulfco Marine Maintenance - Removal Polrep



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
Region VI

**Subject:** POLREP #1  
Gulfco Time Critical Tank Removal  
Gulfco Marine Maintenance  
06JZ  
Freeport, TX  
Latitude: 28.9662090 Longitude: -95.2894878

**To:**  
**From:** Gary Miller, RPM  
**Date:** 12/14/2010  
**Reporting Period:** 11/15/2010 to 12/10/2010

**1. Introduction**

**1.1 Background**

<b>Site Number:</b>	06JZ	<b>Contract Number:</b>	
<b>D.O. Number:</b>		<b>Action Memo Date:</b>	9/13/2010
<b>Response Authority:</b>	CERCLA	<b>Response Type:</b>	Time-Critical
<b>Response Lead:</b>	PRP	<b>Incident Category:</b>	Removal Action
<b>NPL Status:</b>	NPL	<b>Operable Unit:</b>	
<b>Mobilization Date:</b>	11/15/2010	<b>Start Date:</b>	10/26/2010
<b>Demob Date:</b>		<b>Completion Date:</b>	
<b>CERCLIS ID:</b>	TXD055144539	<b>RCRIS ID:</b>	
<b>ERNS No.:</b>		<b>State Notification:</b>	
<b>FPN#:</b>		<b>Reimbursable Account #:</b>	

**1.1.1 Incident Category**

Time-critical removal action.

**1.1.2 Site Description**

The Gulfco Marine Maintenance Site is approximately 40 acres in size. Gulfco operated as a barge cleaning and waste disposal facility from 1971 through 1999. Operations at the facility involved the cleaning, servicing and repair of various types of barges. Chemicals were drained

and pumped from barges into Aboveground Storage Tanks (ASTs). Barges were then washed with water and/or a detergent solution. Generated wash waters were disposed of in barges and/or ASTs onsite.

Marlin Avenue divides the Site into two areas. The property to the north of Marlin Avenue (the North Area) includes closed surface impoundments. An AST farm is located at the Site south of Marlin Avenue. It consists of fourteen tanks of various sizes located within a concrete bermed area. The tanks contain water, various organic phases, oily sludges, and sand, rust solids, and debris. Sampling of AST contents has identified various hazardous substances including benzene, 1,2-dichloroethane, chloroform, heptachlor, tetrachloroethene, trichloroethene, and vinyl chloride.

The Gulfco site was proposed for placement on the National Priorities List (NPL) on September 5, 2002 and subsequently placed on the NPL on April 30, 2003.

#### **1.1.2.1 Location**

The facility is located at 906 Marlin Avenue (also referred to as County Road 756) approximately three miles northeast of the city of Freeport, in Brazoria County, Texas. The geographic coordinates are latitude 28° 58' 00.65" north and longitude 95° 17' 22.76" west. The Site is within the 100-year coastal flood plain along the north bank of the Intercoastal Waterway between Oyster Creek to the east and the Old Brazos River Channel and the Dow Barge Canal to the west. The southern part of the Site drains to the south and enters the Intercoastal Waterway. Approximately 78 people live within the one square mile area surrounding the Site. Approximately 3,392 people live within 50 square miles of the Site. The surrounding area is primarily industrial and commercial. A residential area is located approximately 300 feet west of the Site.

#### **1.1.2.2 Description of Threat**

The tanks contain hazardous substances including benzene, chloroform, 1,2 dichloroethane, trichloroethylene, tetrachloroethylene, and vinyl chloride in various concentrations. These are listed as hazardous substances pursuant to 40 CFR § 302.4. The predominant threat to human populations is the potential for exposure by direct contact with hazardous waste at the Site. Potentially, a wide array of adverse human health effects could occur through the inhalation, ingestion, or dermal contact with chemicals onsite. Effects include minor to severe irritation of skin, mucous membrane, lung, and gastrointestinal tract; neurological effects; death from systemic effects and asphyxiation; blood effects; and cancer.

The southern part of the Site drains to the south and enters the Intercoastal Waterway. The Site is within the 100-year coastal flood plain along the north bank of the Intercoastal Waterway. Sensitive ecosystems including wetlands receiving drainage from the site could be impacted by the toxic contaminants identified onsite.

The area receives an average of 51 inches of rain annually. The contaminants are subject to migration by entrainment, windblown deposition and surface runoff. Located on the coast of Texas, the Site is subject to tropical depressions and hurricanes. In 2008, the Site received heavy rain and winds from Hurricane Ike.

#### **1.1.3 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results**

On March 9, 2010, an EPA inspection identified time critical conditions at the site. One of the fifteen tanks previously documented at the site had been washed away by Hurricane

Ike. Corrosion on some of the remaining tanks was resulting in complete penetration of the metal. Contents of some of these tanks have previously been documented as hazardous substances, including benzene, 1,2 dichloroethane, chloroform, heptachlor, tetrachloroethene, trichloroethene, and vinyl chloride.

## 2. Current Activities

### 2.1 Operations Section

#### 2.1.1 Narrative

#### 2.1.2 Response Actions to Date

The Respondents mobilized contractors to the site on 11/15/2010. Initial activities included mowing and sampling/discharge of rain water within the containment berm around the above ground storage tanks (ASTs). Fluids from the ASTs have been pumped into tanker trucks and hauled to Clean Harbors located in Deer Park, Texas for disposal. One tanker load with non-hazardous water was shipped to the Waste Management Coastal Plains facility in Alvin, Texas. Tank sections have been removed to allow access for removal of the fluids. As of 12/10/2010, all of the water has been removed from all of the tanks where it was present, including AST #2; #3; #4; #6; #15; #16; #21; and #22. The remaining sludges and solids will be solidified with imported fly ash prior to disposal.

The catwalks and ladders around the ASTs have been cut up and removed, and debris within the containment berm has been stockpiled within the berm for later removal. On 12/10/2010, began mixing fly ash with the materials in AST #6 for stabilization prior to disposal.

#### 2.1.3 Enforcement Activities, Identity of Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs)

This removal is being performed by the Respondents pursuant to an Administrative Order on Consent (AOC) dated 10/26/2010 (CERCLA Docket No. 06-13-10). The AOC addresses the removal of the Gulfco ASTs; the Respondents are as follows: Dow Chemical Company; Chromalloy American Corporation; and LDL Coastal, L.P.

#### 2.1.4 Progress Metrics

<i>Waste Stream</i>	<i>Medium</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Manifest #</i>	<i>Treatment</i>	<i>Disposal</i>

### 2.2 Planning Section

#### 2.2.1 Anticipated Activities

#### **2.2.1.1 Planned Response Activities**

The sludge/solids in the tanks will be stabilized with fly ash and sent off-site for disposal. Hydraulic shears will be mobilized to the site to demolish the tanks for off-site disposal after decontamination. Finally, the concrete berm containment area will be decontaminated and breached to prevent future water accumulation within the area.

#### **2.2.1.2 Next Steps**

A newspaper notice will be placed regarding the removal action as well as completing a mail-out of informational post cards to the site mailing list. A public comment period will be held in approximately January 2011 regarding this removal.

#### **2.2.2 Issues**

### **2.3 Logistics Section**

### **2.4 Finance Section**

### **2.5 Safety Officer**

### **2.6 Liaison Officer**

### **2.7 Information Officer**

#### **2.7.1 Public Information Officer**

#### **2.7.2 Community Involvement Coordinator**

June Hoey

### **3. Participating Entities**

#### **3.1 Unified Command**

#### **3.2 Cooperating and Assisting Agencies**

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality is an assisting agency.

### **4. Personnel On Site**

Personnel on-site during the removal action include the RAC contractors as needed.

### **5. Definition of Terms**

### **6. Additional sources of information**

#### **6.1 Internet location of additional information/reports**

#### **6.2 Reporting Schedule**

### **7. Situational Reference Materials**